

"Form almost spherical; size below medium, weight about 10 ounces, length $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, breadth slightly over 3 inches; base scarcely extended, the stem inserted almost squarely without depression; apex rounded, with a slight depression around the stigmatic point; surface undulating to finely pebbled, dull green in color with numerous very minute yellowish dots; skin not very thick, scarcely up to one-eighth of an inch over any portion of the fruit, separating readily from the flesh, woody, brittle; flesh yellow, greenish toward the skin, free from fiber or discoloration, of firm, smooth texture and rich flavor; quality excellent; seed rather small, nearly spherical in form, weighing slightly more than 1 ounce, tight in the seed cavity, with both seed coats adhering closely to the cotyledons." (*Popenoe*.)

44440. PERSEA AMERICANA Mill. Lauraceæ.

Avocado.

(*P. gratissima* Gaertn. f.)

From Guatemala. Budwood collected by Mr. Wilson Popenoe, Agricultural Explorer for the Department of Agriculture. Received March to June, 1917.

"(Nos. 94, 110, 116, 138. Avocado No. 17.) *Nimliah*. It is rare to find a large-fruited avocado which is at the same time very productive. In this variety, however, these two characteristics are both combined to an unusual degree. In addition, the quality of the fruit is excellent, the flesh being rich yellow in color, free from discoloration, and of very rich flavor. The habit of the tree and the character of the wood indicate that the variety may not be a very strong grower.

"The parent tree is growing in a sitio belonging to Trinidad Hernandez, Callejon de Concepción No. 28, Antigua, Guatemala. The elevation is approximately 5,100 feet. The soil is a very sandy loam, black, loose, deep, and undoubtedly very fertile. The tree stands close to the wall, with no other large trees close to it. It is very poorly cared for. Its age is not known, but it is probably 15 years. It is about 25 feet high, the trunk is 14 inches thick at the base, and the first branches 12 feet from the ground. The crown is broadly oval, of good form, and rather dense. It looks, however, as though the variety might be a diffuse grower when young, with long heavy shoots inclined to droop. The wood is unusually brittle, and the budwood very poor, the eyes being stalked or losing their bud scales and falling early. The tree is badly attacked by leaf-gall, and there are a good many scale insects on it.

"The elevation of Antigua, 5,100 feet, is not great enough to insure unusual hardness in a variety, and pending a test in the United States it can only be assumed that this avocado is of about average hardness for the Guatemalan race.

"The flowering season is from the latter part of February to the end of March. According to the owner of the tree, it always bears at least a few fruits, but it is to be expected that a tree which produces such a crop as this one did in 1917 will not bear heavily the following year. While an accurate count was not made, the crop this season was estimated at 300 to 400 fruits. The normal size of the fruit is between 2 and 3 pounds, but owing probably to the large number on the tree many do not develop to a greater size than 1 pound. Probably good culture and thinning would result in a crop of uniformly large fruits. The season of ripening is earlier than some, most of the fruits being fully ripe in February and March.

"In form this avocado is broadly oval, usually somewhat oblique. The surface is deep green and rather rough, while the skin is thick and woody. The